

Amendment to and Listing of the Claims:

Please add new claims 30-32 and amend claims 1, 3, 6-7, 9-13 and 24-29 wherein strikethrough and double brackets indicates a deletion and underline indicates an addition, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A panel for a fence comprising:

~~having~~ at least one hollow rail; and

a plurality of pickets supported by the rail, ~~wherein~~ each picket ~~passes~~ passing through a first aperture and a second ~~[[two]]~~ aperture~~[[s]]~~ in the rail and having a longitudinal axis, the first aperture being spaced from the second aperture along the longitudinal axis, [[and]] a portion of each picket located inside of the rail between the first and second apertures ~~is deformed while being compressed partially radially inwardly within the rail in first and second converging directions generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis thereby expanding the portion of each picket located inside of the rail partially radially outwardly within the rail in first and second diverging directions, the first and second diverging directions being generally perpendicular to the first and second converging directions to thereby prevent further passage of [[the]] each picket[[s]] through the first and second apertures.~~

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The panel for a fence according to claim 1, wherein the portion of each picket that has been deformed within the rail has a partly flattened shape that no longer ~~matches the shape of~~ fits through the ~~respective~~ first and second apertures in the rail.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The panel for a fence according to claim 1, wherein the first

aperture is on a first side of the rail and the second aperture is in an internal wall within the rail such that each picket passes through only one the first side and the internal wall of the rail and ends proximate a second side of the rail and the internal wall is positioned between the first and second sides of the rail at an internal wall within the rail, an end portion of the picket being held in a wall aperture of the internal wall.

7. (Currently Amended) A panel for a fence comprising:

having at least one hollow rail; [[and]]

a plurality of pickets supported by the rail, wherein the rail [[has]] having an external wall with entry apertures extending through the external wall for receiving the pickets[[,]]; and

an internal wall spaced internally from the external wall and having holding apertures for holding end portions of the pickets, [[and]]

wherein each picket enters the rail through a respective entry aperture and has an the end portion [[which]] of each picket passes through a corresponding holding aperture such that a portion of the picket is held between the respective entry aperture and [[by a]] the corresponding holding aperture in the internal wall.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel according to claim 7, wherein the holding apertures are aligned with the entry apertures so that the pickets are perpendicular to the rail.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel according to claim 7, wherein the holding apertures are offset from the entry apertures so that the pickets are not perpendicular to the rail.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel according to claim 7, wherein the internal wall is moveable within the rail to vary the alignment of the holding apertures and the entry apertures.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel according to claim 7, wherein the holding apertures are formed by a plurality of flanges which receive end portions of respective pickets.

13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel according to claim 7, wherein the pickets are fastened to the rail by a deformed portion of each picket within the rail.

14-23 (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel according to claim 1, wherein each picket passes through opposite sides of the rail and has an end portion outside of the rail.

25. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel according to claim 1, further comprising a pair of rails which support the pickets.

26. (Currently Amended) A panel for a fence comprising:

having at least one tubular hollow rail having a unitary and continuous outer wall extending around the periphery of the hollow rail; and

a plurality of pickets on an imaginary plane supported by the outer wall of the rail, wherein the pickets entering the rail by passage through respective entry apertures in the outer wall of the rail, [[and]] a portion of each picket located inside of the rail is transversely flattened within the rail being compressed partially radially inwardly within the rail in first and second converging directions generally perpendicular to the imaginary plane thereby expanding the portion of each picket located inside of the rail partially radially outwardly within the rail in first and second diverging directions generally perpendicular to the first and second converging directions to thereby prevent further passage of the pickets through the respective entry apertures.

27. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel according to claim 26, wherein the ~~portion of each picket located inside of the rail is narrowed in one direction and extended in another direction,~~ both the first and second diverging directions [[being]] are perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of one of the plurality of pickets.

28. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel according to claim 26, wherein each picket passes through only one side of the rail and ends within the rail.

29. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel according to claim 26, wherein each picket passes through entirely opposite sides of the rail and ends outside the rail.

30. (New) The panel according to claim 1, wherein the portion of each picket located inside of the rail is flattened in the first and second converging directions by passage of a crimping tool through the rail to form two generally opposed planar parallel walls that are both generally parallel with the longitudinal axis of one of the plurality of pickets.

31. (New) The panel according to claim 1, wherein the rail is a tubular structure that has a unitary and continuous outer wall that extends around the periphery of the hollow rail.

32. (New) The panel according to claim 1, wherein the first and second diverging directions are perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of one of the plurality of pickets.